

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 RSC-01 /018 W

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R 111218Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO AEC GERMANTOWN 1352

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7764

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 8765

PASS TO H. BROWN, DR; R.P. DENISE, LT:TR; A. S. FRIEDMAN,
DIP; E.E. KINTNER, RRD; H.C. KOUTS-, RSR; G. MERVER, RRD;
L.M. MUNTZING, DR; AND T. NEMZEK, RRD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, FR

SUBJECT: PHENIX STATUS

1. AEC/BRUSSELS RECEIVED TWO SEPARATE REPORTS OF A "BLOCKAGE"
AND SHUTDOWN OF THE PHENIX REACTOR DURING THE PAST WEEK. AS
A RESULT, WE TELEPHONED ANDRE CEGUT, MANAGER OF THE PHENIX PLANT
AT MARCOULE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 TO DISCUSS PHENIX PLANT STATUS.

2. AT THE TIME OF OUR CONVERSATION, THE REACTOR WAS REPORTED
ON LINE AND OPERATING AT FULL POWER. ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX
EQUIVALENT FULL POWER DAYS HAD BEEN ACCUMULATED TO DATE. CREGUT
STATED THAT THE ONLY RECENT OUTAGE WAS THE MID-
OCTOBER FUEL HANDLING OPERATION REPORTED IN EC CABLE 8293.
HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT EVENT OF RECENT
ORIGIN WAS THE SMALL SECONDARY SODIUM LEAK PREVIOUSLY REPORTED
IN EC CABLE 7739 AND 8078.

3. FURTHERMORE, CREGUT STATED THUT PLANT PERFORMANCE HAS, IN
FACT, BEEN BETTER THAN TTHE MOST OPTIMISTIC PROJECTIONS. THERE
WERE NO PROBOEMS EVEN WHEN THE PLANWAS PERATING ON TWO
LOOPS (AFTER ISOLATION OF THE FAULTY LOOP). DURING THAT PERIOD
OF TIME, THE PLANT PROVIDED THE FULL MAXIMUM TWO LOOP DESIGN
POWER OF 160 MWE.

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4. ADDITIONALLY, THERE STILL HAVE NOT BEEN ANY FAILED FUEL SIGNALS, EITHER FROM DELAYED NEUTRON OR COVER GAS MONITORS. SIX TO SEVEN FUEL SUBASSEMBLIES WILL BE DISCHARGED FOR EXAMINATION DURING THE SIX DAY SHUTDOWN SCHEDULED DECEMBER 15. PEAK FUEL BURNUP WILL BE 35-36,000 MWD/T. THIS IS A CRITICAL BURNUP FOR THE FRENCH, AS DUCT "BULGING" CALCULATIONS PREDICT POTENTIAL LIFE LIMITING DUCT TO DUCT INTERACTION AT PRECISELY THIS BURNUP.

5. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THIS IS THE THIRD FALSE REPORT ABOUT A PHENIX PROBLEM THAT AEC/BRUSSELS HAS RECEIVED FROM RESPONSIBLE SOURCES IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS. GREENWALD

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